1871-129 EE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee for the above-referenced patent application, please enter the following amendments:

In the Claims:

In claim 5, line 2, please delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 7, line 2, please delete "or 6".

In claim 8, line 2, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 4" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 11, line 2, please delete "or 9".

In claim 12, line 4, please delete "any one of claims 1 to 4" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 15, line 3, please delete "or 13".

Please add the following new claims: